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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

August 17, 2007

Robert A. Eckert
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
Mattel, Inc.
333 Continental Boulevard
El Segundo, CA 90245

Dear Mr. Eckert:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding your company's recent recall of toys imported from China found to have been contaminated with lead-paint as well as to seek answers to some key questions on behalf of the American consumer and families

As the recall of 1.5 million toys is expanded by approximately 436,000 total lead-contaminated toys, 253,000 of which are in the U.S., it is critical that Mattel take every effort to prevent these unsafe toys from getting in the hands of our country's children.

While I appreciate your instituting new procedures, I am asking you to start by taking full responsibility for your operations, including all your subcontractors and their vendors. New procedures will not work without a new attitude.

For the future, you must re-examine your own product safety monitoring system to require all vendors that you contract with to incorporate product safety testing regimes that ensure the safety of their children. It is also critical that you work with the Consumer Product Safety Commission to develop a long-term solution.

Additionally, recent news reports have maintained that one of your European retail partners noticed lead paint on some of its toys in July. In response, you began an extensive investigation of the toys in your distribution chain and of the contract manufacturers that produce half of the toys. Taking this into consideration, I would appreciate responses to the following questions to help shed light on why these lead-contaminated toys were not discovered earlier and on actions your company is taking to prevent future recalls:

- What were the results of July's extensive investigation?
- Do you plan to share them?
- How come the Consumer Product Safety Commission was not informed of these results?
- Are there any future investigations in your plans?
- Do you think the trade agreements that we currently operate under need to take account of a breakdown like we are seeing in China?

Since 65 percent of your toys are being made in China, it is especially important that you set new policies that make inspecting every imported product for safety as standard practice. Being cognizant of the different vendors involved with producing any one toy, these safety standards should also extend to all of the components and ingredients used and in doing so, families can be assured of the safety of their children's toys. We can not afford to simply wait for China to take action. Instead, I ask you to address the problem proactively so that harmful products never reach our store shelves.

Like you, I believe that the safety of children should always be a number one priority. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress